

14th November 1922]

*The Russellkonda Saw Mills.*

473 Q.—Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased—

(1) to state:

(a) the quantity of timber in cubic feet which was operated on at the Russellkonda Saw Mills from the date of commencement of the mills till the end of September 1922, and the cost thereof;

(b) the quantity in cubic feet of timber turned out as finished product from out of the timber mentioned in (a), and the estimated or realized cost thereof;

(c) the establishment charges and other working expenses for producing the quantity referred to in (b);

(2) to furnish a classified list of articles produced from the mills, and to state whether such articles were produced with reference to any orders previously placed or demands previously made; and

(3) to state, if any, the sources of demand for timber produced in the mills, and to classify the demand as follows:—

(1) from Government;

(2) from private agencies;

(3) from the Madras Presidency; and

(4) from outside?

A.—(1) (a) 51,542 cubic feet, including sawings, before the completion of the mill.

(b) 15,150 cubic feet at an approximate cost of Rs. 45,655.

(c) Rs. 31,178.

(2) No articles, with the exception of a few saw guards and other mill necessities, have been produced. The timber has been sawn into scantlings.

(3) Demands for sawn timber have been made from the four sources mentioned.

*Salt inspector of the Ganjam Circle.*

474 Q.—Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(1) whether it is a fact that the present salt inspector in charge of Ganjam circle had already served in that circle for about five seasons from 1915 to 1920;

(2) whether, in the year 1918, certain abandoned pans in the said Ganjam circle were worked under *amani* and that resulted in loss to Government; if so, at whose instance the work was undertaken;

(3) whether, in working these abandoned pans, regular musters were maintained and vouchers secured for paying the *coolies* and for incurring expenditure for stores;

(4) whether any complaints were received from *coolies* about non-receipt of their wages in connexion with the said *amani* work;

(5) whether it is a fact that in the year 1918-19 the salt inspector held auctions at Humma for inland and home salt on one and the same day, and whether such action by the salt inspector was likely to favour the home-salt merchants and affect the interests of the inland-salt merchants prejudicially;

(6) whether it is a fact that the salt inspector was transferred to Calingapatam circle in 1920;

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(7) whether, upon such transfer, he took long leave and extended such leave three or four times to avoid transfers elsewhere and eventually succeeded to get back to the same old Ganjam circle where he is now working;

(8) what special circumstances induced the Government to post him to a circle where he had already served sufficiently long; and

(9) whether his transfer from that circle is contemplated?

A.—(1) The officer in question was in charge of the circle for the seasons of 1916, 1917, 1918 and 1919.

(2) (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The work was part of a general effort to increase the output of salt.

(3) Yes, in the majority of cases.

(4) The answer is in the negative.

(5) The Government have no information.

(6) The answer is in the negative; the officer was transferred in the year 1919.

(7) The Member is misinformed; the officer in question was for a year at Calingapatam when he took leave, and was compelled to extend it on the ground of ill-health.

(8) The officer was posted to a circle with which he was acquainted and in which there was a vacancy.

(9) The posting of inspectors is in the hands of the Board of Revenue.

*Delay in the delivery of telegrams in Cuddalore New Town.*

475 Q.—MR. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state whether the Government are aware that telegrams despatched to Cuddalore New Town are received in the New Town railway station and sent to the addressees by post instead of by messengers, so that they reach the addressees only a day after that of receipt in the said telegraph office, thus defeating the object of sending messages?

A.—Orders have been issued to treat all messages addressed to Cuddalore New Town as if addressed to Cuddalore.

*Newspapers in the Presidency.*

476 Q.—MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state the number of copies of each daily newspaper in the Presidency which is subscribed for by Government for the use of the Secretariat?

A.—The numbers are as follows:—

"Daily Express"	..	..	..	..	..	1
"Hindu"	..	..	..	..	..	5
"Justice"	..	..	..	..	..	4
"Madras Mail"	..	..	..	..	..	7
"New India"	..	..	..	..	..	2
"Swarajya"	..	..	..	..	..	1